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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: April 3, 1959

SUBJECT: U.S. Air Flights to Berlin  
✓  
DRAFTED BY NPD 901079  
DHR-m/SG 5/23/91

PARTICIPANTS: M. Olivier Manet, Counselor, French Embassy

✓  
Mr. Foy D. Kohler, Deputy Assistant Secretary, EUR  
Mr. Matthew J. Looram, WE

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APR 7 1959

10-12

M. Manet asked Mr. Kohler for clarification of the Acting Secretary's statement to the French Ambassador this morning to the effect that U.S. planned to send another flight to Berlin over 10,000 feet altitude.

Mr. Kohler replied that in response to a note received from the Soviet controller in the Berlin Air Safety Center protesting our recent flight, we had now sent a note to the Soviet controller reaffirming our right to fly at any altitude in the designated corridors. The note pointed out the Soviet obligations to take the necessary safety measures.

Mr. Kohler said that we had held up further flights until now, partly in view of Mr. Lloyd's anxiety but more important, in order to give time for us to set forth to the Soviets our official position on this matter. We were accordingly planning to send another flight over 10,000 feet on either April 5 or 6. Normal advance notification would be given in due course to the Berlin Air Safety Center, at which time the French representative would be informed as to the specific date and hour of the flight.

Mr. Kohler said he thought it was most important that we not accept any ceiling on flights in the corridors. Should an air lift ever be required involving the transportation of heavy cargo to Berlin, it would be necessary to fly at altitudes over 10,000 feet.

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64

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